

"Women's Mysteries" Author to Give Annual Sibley Lecture at AU

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Alfred, NY -- Christine Downing, author of many books on mythology, gender, and the intersection of the two, will give the annual Sibley Lecture at 7:30 p.m. Monday (Feb. 22) in Howell Hall at Alfred University. Downing's talk is titled "It's Not So Simple After All: Auschwitz, the Death of God, the Rebirth of the Goddess." The lecture, free and open to all, will be followed by a reception. Downing is Professor Emeritus at San Diego State University and currently holds the position of Professor of Mythological Studies at Pacifica Graduate Institute. Her research and teaching draw on the disciplines of religious studies, psychology, and women's studies. Much of her work uses mythology to shed light on gender dynamics, individual development, relationships, illness, and healing. Her many books include *Women's Mysteries: Toward a Poetics of Gender*; *Gods In Our Midst: Mythological Images of the Masculine*; *The Goddess: Mythological Images of the Feminine*; and *Myths and Mysteries of Same-Sex Love*. She has also written books on menopause and on sisterhood. The Sibley Lecture is hosted by the Division of Human Studies at AU, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Featuring speakers in philosophy and religion, the annual lecture honors the late Myron (Mike) K. Sibley was a professor of philosophy at AU for 30 years.